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Ivan Butina

Global Communicators, LLC

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DATE:

March 8, 2011

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Attachments

in 17 HM 8:

### **Ivan Butina**

From:

The Royal Thai Embassy <The\_Royal\_Thai\_Embassy@mail.vresp.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, March 01, 2011 4:01 PM

То:

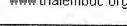
Ivan Butina

Subject:

Thai Update - March 1, 2011



# THAILAND UPDATE / March 1, 2011 OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS ROYAL THAI EMBASSY www.thaiembdc.org









**FEBRUARY 28, 2011** 

## Thai Intellectual Property Director Briefs U.S. Officials On IP Protection and Enforcement Progress

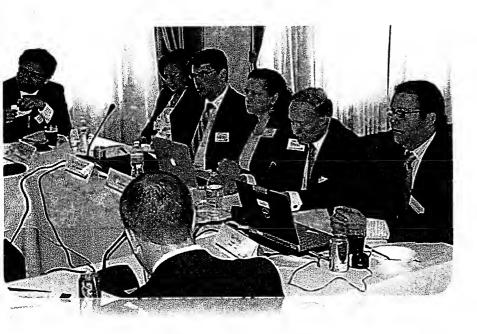


The Director General (center) and her delegation, along with Minister (Commercial Affairs) Mrs. Kessiri Siripakorn (second from right) and their counterpart, David Kappos, Under Secretary of Department of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO in Thailand, met at the Commerce Department.

Mrs. Pajchima Tanasanti, Director General of the Thai Ministry of Commerce's Department of Intellectual Property, met in Washington February 8th with David Kappos, U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Enforcement Office in Thailand, with an aim to remove Thailand from the U.S. priority watch list in this year's annual evaluation of intellectual property rights protection. They also discussed Thailand's creative economy initiative including the upcoming Asia-Pacific Patent Cooperation in the 21st Century Forum.

# Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations Discussed At Washington Embassy Network Thai Luncheon

The Washington Embassy Network (WEN) in cooperation with the Thai Embassy Office of Commercial Affairs (OCA), hosted a luncheon at the Royal Thai Embassy to discuss TPP negotiations. Participants included New Zealand Trade Counsellor Ben King; Doug Nelson, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of CropLife America; and Stanford McCoy, Assistant USTR for IP and Innovation, who briefs the group on U.S. IP-related priorities in the TPP and developments in the 2011 Special 301 Annual Review process.



## Congressional Staff Delegation Visits Thailand To See Impact of U.S. Trade Policy, Cultural Sites

During the recent congressional recess January 27th to February 4th, three senior congressional staff members visited Thailand as part of a visit organized by the Royal Thai Embassy Office of Commercial Affairs under the auspices of the U.S. Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program. The group saw Thailand close up and in depth from a cultural, educational, and business perspective. The group met with Ministry of Commerce Deputy Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot and leadership of the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand. They also experienced temples, the ancient capital, Muay Thai boxing, Thai traditional dance, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai attractions, and the resort and tea-growing area known as the Golden Triangle. The meetings provided useful information on the workings of U.S-Thai trade policy, and the impact of U.S. laws on foreign countries such as Thailand. Special emphasis was focused on the importance of the high quality of production Thailand provides in its creative economy, through meetings with the Gem and Jewelry Association, visits to silver jewelry retailers and onsite factory tours. The congressional officials saw the actual benefits of U.S trade policy at work, and the meaningful social development that it has brought to Thailand.

2011 MAR 17 AM

Congressional staff discuss trade issues with Deputy Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot at the Ministry of Commerce during CODEL to Thailand. The delegation included Erik Olson, Chief of Staff to Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI); Jason Edgar, Legislative Director to Rep. David G. Reichert (R-WA); and Noah Jacobson, Legislative Director and General Counsel to Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN).





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## **Ivan Butina**

From:

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Sent:

Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:58 AM

To:

Ivan Butina

Subject:

Thai Update - March 8, 2011



# THAILAND

March 8, 2011

# OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

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# THAILAND INCREASES IMPORTS OF SEED POTATOES FROM U.S.

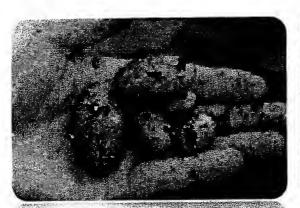
# Ten States Join California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington as Sources

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced March 1st that Thailand has agreed to import seed potatoes from ten additional states, bringing the total number of states from which it purchases seed potatoes to 14. Seed potatoes are used for planting new crops of potatoes. "This is a promising development for U.S. seed potato producers who will now be able to compete in Thailand, the largest potato growing country in Southeast Asia," Secretary Vilsack said. He noted that Southeast Asia is one of the fastest growing markets for U.S. agriculture products.

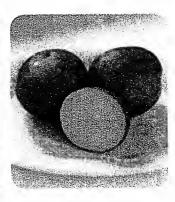
Thai Office of Commercial Affairs Minister Kessiri Siripakorn said the expansion of imports to Thailand from the 14 states is another indication of the strategic importance of Thailand to agribusinesses in the United States. "Our two countries are partners in trade," she said. "American farmers and workers benefit directly from our strong and lasting trade relations."

#### States Added To Thai Seed Potato Import List

- Colorado
- Maine
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New York
- North Dakota
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming







The market opening for U.S. seed potatoes in Thailand follows negotiations between Thailand and USDA that included a visit by Thai health officials to several states and a review of U.S. seed certification procedures, seed cultivation practices, and phytosanitary (plant health) mitigation measures. The U.S. exports \$10 million in seed potatoes worldwide each year, and it is estimated that sales of seed potatoes to Thailand will reach \$500,000 in the first year of the expanded program.



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